

**Dan Bernal**  
President

**Laurie Green, M.D.**  
Vice President

**Edward A. Chow, M.D.**  
Commissioner

**Susan Belinda Christian, J.D.**  
Commissioner

**Cecilia Chung**  
Commissioner

**Suzanne Giraudo ED.D**  
Commissioner

**Tessie M. Guillermo**  
Commissioner

**HEALTH COMMISSION  
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN  
FRANCISCO**

**London N. Breed Mayor**  
**Department of Public Health**



**Grant Colfax, MD**  
Director of Health

**Mark Morewitz, M.S.W.**  
Executive Secretary

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**MINUTES**

**HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING**

**Tuesday, January 4, 2022 4:00 p.m.**

**Remote Meeting via Webex Event**

**1) CALL TO ORDER**

**Present:** Commissioner Dan Bernal President  
Commissioner Laurie Green, MD, Vice President  
Commissioner Edward A. Chow M.D.  
Commissioner Cecilia Chung  
Commissioner Suzanne Giraudo, Ph.D  
Commissioner Tessie Guillermo

**Excused:** Commissioner Susan Belinda Christian, J.D.

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 pm.

**2) RESOLUTION ADDRESSING HEALTH DISPARITIES OF THE LOCAL AMERICAN INDIAN COMMUNITIES**

Mark Morewitz, Health Commission Executive Secretary, introduced the item.

**Public Comment:**

Sharaya Souza, Executive Director, American Indian Cultural District, asked for Health Commission approval of this item. She noted that American Indians have the highest health disparity rates in San Francisco. She is hopeful that this is a step in the right direction and that funding for programs to assist the community will follow.

Michael Petrulis stated that he is in favor of the resolution and hopes the Health Commission votes to approve it.

Mary Travis Allen, American Indian Cultural District Board President encouraged the Health Commission to pass the resolution, which is a commitment and a treaty committing the DPH to address health disparities in the American Indian community.

April McGill, Executive Director, American Indian Cultural Center, thanked the Commission for its support of the resolution.

Virginia Hedrick, Executive Director, California Consortium for Urban Indian Health, thanked the Commission for its support and noted the American Indian community is an “Asterisk Nation,” without representation in public health data.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Chung stated that she was not present at the December 7, 2021 Health Commission meeting in which this resolution was introduced. She noted that the Human Rights Commission report on American Indian communities in San Francisco was begun under her leadership of that Commission. She is heartened to see that the DPH will be addressing health disparities in this community.

Commissioner Chow thanked the American Indian communities which came together to develop this resolution with DPH staff.

Action Taken: The Health Commission unanimously approved the resolution. (See Attachment A)

**3) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING OF DECEMBER 21, 2021.**

Public Comment:

Michael Petrelis stated that there is nothing in the minutes indicating that the Health Commission discussed mailing everyone a N-95 mask and home COVID-19 test. He is disappointed that these issues did not come up at the last meeting. He noted that Los Angeles is implementing these actions. He urged the Health Commission to discuss funding mailing masks and home tests upon requests from the public.

Action Taken: The Health Commission unanimously approved the December 21, 2021 meeting minutes.

**4) DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Grant Colfax, MD, DPH Director of Health, presented the item.

**DPH reaffirms support for in-person learning despite presence of COVID-19 Omicron variant.** Health and safety protocols have kept schools open despite the pandemic and are further encouraged as students and staff return to school following the holidays

As families prepare for a return to school following the holidays, DPH reaffirms its support for the resumption of in-person learning despite rising COVID-19 cases due to the Omicron variant. Multiple layers of health and safety protocols have kept school settings open this year despite COVID-19, and DPH urges families and schools to continue following these recommendations to allow for a safer return to school.

“San Francisco has remained vigilant and beat back four surges, and we are well positioned with a highly vaccinated population to do the same with this current surge due to Omicron,” said Dr. Grant Colfax, San Francisco Director of Public Health. “Throughout the pandemic, San Francisco schools have remained low-risk settings by following proper safety protocols – let’s work together to keep it that way.”

Getting vaccinated and boosted, testing after travel and gatherings, staying home when sick, and wearing well-fitted masks are key to keeping schools open for in-person learning.

“I appreciate this guidance from our public health experts on the importance of keeping our students safely in the classroom,” said Mayor London Breed. “We know how hard the last two years have been on our kids, and we need to focus on what’s best to support them, while also putting policies in place to ensure that everyone in our schools is protected.”

When rates of COVID are high in our communities, cases will appear at schools, just as they do in other settings. However, with effective health protocols in place, the data shows that these multiple layers of defense can stop the spread of COVID in school settings.

CDC recently announced its support for an additional valuable tool in school settings as part of its layered prevention strategy called Test to Stay. Test to Stay combines contact tracing and COVID-19 testing that is repeated at least twice during a seven-day period post-exposure to allow asymptomatic school-associated close contacts who are not fully vaccinated and do not test positive for COVID-19 to continue in-person learning. Students who participate in Test to Stay should consistently and correctly wear masks while in school and should stay home and isolate if they develop symptoms or test positive for COVID-19.

DPH continues to support strategies that safely keep as many kids in schools, such as the CDC's Test to Stay tool, which is similar to the modified quarantine guidance that DPH supported and allowed since the beginning of the school year. More information on the modified quarantine guidance is available here:

<https://www.sfdph.org/dph/covid-19/isolation-and-quarantine.asp#school>.

"We must do everything possible to keep students safely attending schools," said Dr. Susan Philip, San Francisco Health Officer. "The mental health impacts on students due to social isolation far outweigh the challenges of in-person learning."

#### Safer Return to School Recommendations

- Testing
  - All students and staff are recommended to get tested for COVID-19 regardless of vaccination status 1-2 days before returning to school or work, even if they are asymptomatic.
  - If families or staff have traveled over the holidays, DPH recommends testing 3-5 days after returning from travel.
  - If any students or staff test positive, please notify your school immediately and follow isolation and quarantine guidelines: <https://www.sfdph.org/dph/COVID-19/Isolation-and-Quarantine.asp>. Individuals who need assistance with isolation can connect with the COVID Resource Center at (628) 217-6101.
  - COVID-19 testing sites and resources: <https://sf.gov/find-out-about-your-covid-19-testing-options>
  - San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) specific testing resources: <https://www.sfusd.edu/covid-19-response-updates-and-resources/covid-19-surveillance-testing-students/covid-19-testing-locations-and-dates>
- Stay Home When Sick
  - Students, teachers and staff who have symptoms of infectious illness, such as COVID-19 or the flu, should stay home and be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care, regardless of vaccination status.
- Vaccination
  - Everyone who is eligible (currently open to age 5 and above) for a COVID-19 vaccine should get vaccinated and stay up to date with boosters (currently open to age 16 and above if enough time has passed since their initial vaccination).
  - COVID-19 vaccination sites and resources: <https://sf.gov/get-vaccinated-against-covid-19>
- Face Coverings
  - A well-fitted mask that can be comfortably worn is most important.
  - Double masking is an effective way to improve fit and filtration. A close-fitting cloth mask can be worn on top of a surgical/disposable mask to improve the seal of the mask to the face.
  - Additional masking resources: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Get-the-Most-out-of-Masking.aspx>

**SF temporarily tightens universal indoor masking requirement and augments vaccination requirements amid Omicron surge.** Indoor mega-events will require up-to-date vaccinations, including boosters, starting February 1, 2022.

On December 29, 2021, Mayor Breed and San Francisco Health Director Dr. Grant Colfax announced updates to the [Safer Return Together Health Order](#) in response to the sharp increase of COVID-19 cases driven by the rapidly-spreading Omicron variant. Major changes include (1) the City's alignment with the State to require boosters among workers in healthcare and high-risk settings – as well as some additional higher-risk settings not covered by the State requirements – by February 1, 2022, (2) a temporary suspension of the indoor universal mask exemption that allowed removal of masks for stable groups of 100% fully vaccinated individuals in certain settings, and (3) a requirement that attendees and staff of indoor mega-events are up-to-date on COVID-19 vaccinations, including boosters if eligible, starting February 1, 2022.

In addition, DPH plans to align its guidance on Isolation & Quarantine with the recently announced modifications recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), which include shortening the isolation time for people who are COVID-positive.

“Our residents have shown time and time again that they understand the importance of protecting public health,” said Mayor London Breed. “Thanks to our high vaccination rates we are in a much better place than last winter, but there is real danger out there for those who are unvaccinated. We will continue to focus on taking the steps necessary to deal with this latest surge of cases, while also keeping our businesses open and keeping our kids in school, which is so important for our young people and their families. Do your part and get yourself and your family boosted so we can all continue to protect each other in the weeks and months ahead.”

San Francisco's COVID-19 7-day average case rate as of December 21, 2021 was 398, surpassing the peak average during the Delta surge, and more recent data show the rate has continued to increase in the past week. Cases are rising three times faster than during the summer Delta-fueled surge and further rapid increases are expected. While the hospitals currently still have ample capacity, the rate of hospitalizations has also started to increase but so far remains low compared to last Winter.

“We know that our focus in this Omicron surge must be on reducing hospitalizations and maintaining our capacity to care for San Franciscans, and these measures will help ensure this,” said Dr. Susan Philip, San Francisco Health Officer. “We do not want to wait until it's too late to implement these measures to better protect our community.”

San Francisco is taking precautionary measures to keep schools and businesses open, and limit severe illness, hospitalizations and deaths.

“As COVID-19 becomes endemic, we need to ensure everyone eligible gets vaccinated and boosted, we sustain our hospital capacity, and protect the most vulnerable – these updates to the Health Order help us achieve that,” said Dr. Grant Colfax, San Francisco Director of Public Health.

Several changes to the Health Order are temporary as the City continues to monitor impacts of the Omicron variant.

“While it is difficult to move backward after all the progress the City has made, the Omicron variant has shown that responsible steps, including introducing a short-term mask mandate, should be taken to bridge the gap until all residents have the opportunity to benefit from the protection of a booster shot,” said the San Francisco Independent Fitness Studio Coalition. “We know fitness plays a crucial role in helping people stay

both mentally and physically safe as we battle this pandemic, and our employees and clients are ready to meet the moment and do their part to protect the residents of San Francisco.”

In addition to the Health Order update, DPH will be updating local guidance on isolation and quarantine. The CDC announced that people who test positive for COVID-19 but are asymptomatic are recommended to isolate for 5 days instead of the previously recommended 10 days, with masking for an additional 5 days.

The CDC also announced that for people who are unvaccinated or are more than six months out from their second mRNA dose (or more than 2 months after the J&J vaccine) and not yet boosted, individuals are recommended to quarantine for 5 days followed by strict mask use for an additional 5 days. Alternatively, if a 5-day quarantine is not feasible, CDC considers it imperative that an exposed person wear a well-fitted mask at all times when around others for 10 days after exposure.

For individuals who have received their booster shot, the CDC states these individuals do not need to quarantine following an exposure, but should wear a mask for 10 days after the exposure.

DPH will formally adopt these policies once written guidance is adopted by the CDC and CDPH. DPH will provide updates to local Isolation & Quarantine guidance here: <https://www.sfdph.org/dph/COVID-19/Isolation-and-Quarantine.asp>

#### *Summary of Key Changes to the Health Order:*

##### Booster Requirements for Workers in Healthcare and High-Risk Settings

The State of California recently announced that workers in healthcare and certain other high-risk settings must receive a booster by February 1, 2022. San Francisco’s revised Order conforms to the updated State Health Order and extends the booster requirement to other designated higher-risk settings that are already covered by San Francisco’s previous requirements for personnel in those settings to receive their full initial series of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Personnel working in high-risk settings who are eligible for a booster and have not yet received one must be tested once or twice a week for COVID-19 (depending on the setting) and provide proof of a negative test until one week after they receive a booster. Due to the threat Omicron poses to hospital capacity, eligible personnel in high-risk settings are strongly urged to receive their booster as soon as possible before the deadline.

##### Temporary Suspension of Indoor Universal Masking Exemption

The Order suspends the indoor universal masking exemption for stable cohorts of 100% fully vaccinated people in select settings including workspaces, gyms, religious gatherings starting at 12:01 a.m. on December 30, 2021 until January 31, 2022.

CDPH imposed a universal indoor masking requirement for the state on December 14, 2021, but granted exemptions to San Francisco and other counties that already had local indoor masking policies in place. This update to the Order brings San Francisco in alignment with the State. Universal masking means the requirements apply to everyone, regardless of their vaccination status.

Additionally, participants in indoor youth sports are required to wear masks through January 31, 2022.

## Up-to-Date Vaccinations

The Order adds the concept of being “up-to-date on vaccination” which includes having received a COVID-19 booster when eligible, similar to other types of vaccines that are recommended for regular upkeep. For information on booster eligibility, visit: <https://sf.gov/information/get-your-booster>

Beginning February 1, 2022, operators and hosts of indoor mega-events (1,000 people or more under state and local guidelines) are required to verify proof of up-to-date vaccinations, which includes a booster received at least one week prior to an event, for eligible patrons and staff. Patrons between 5 and 11 years old (or their parents or guardians) must show proof of full vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test taken within one day (for antigen tests) or two days (for PCR tests) prior to entry into the event venue, and children between 2 and 4 years old need a negative test.

Operators and hosts of large outdoor events (with between 5,000 and 9,999 people) and outdoor mega-events (10,000 people or more under state guidelines) are encouraged to consider the same up-to-date vaccination verification as indoor mega-events.

The Order strongly urges that certain indoor facilities that currently must check for proof of full vaccination, such as restaurants, bars, clubs, and gyms and other fitness centers, require patrons and staff to show proof that they are up-to-date on vaccination, including boosters if those individuals are eligible, and to implement that requirement as soon as possible.

## Schools

The updated Health Order clarifies, in relation to schools, that based on the demonstrated effectiveness of measures that reduce the risk of transmission in school settings, including the requirement for universal masking indoors, the use of rapid testing, and vaccinations for children age five and older, the Health Officer strongly believes that schools can and should remain open for in-person classes for all grades. The Order strongly recommends that teachers, staff, and administrators in TK-12 schools be up-to-date on vaccination, including boosters, and the Health Officer will be updating school and youth-related directives to require masks for participants in indoor youth sports, through January 31, 2022.

## Skilled Nursing Facilities

The Health Officer will also be issuing a temporary requirement later this week regarding visitors, requiring on-site testing of visitors at the time of the visit and limiting the number of visitors per day through the end of January 2022 in order to further protect residents at those facilities.

Updates to the Health Order will be available at: <https://www.sfdph.org/dph/alerts/coronavirus-healthorders.asp>

Additional COVID-19 resources are available at: <https://sf.gov/topics/coronavirus-covid-19>

**As Omicron variant rapidly spreads, DPH supports drop in sites for boosters and tests, recommends better masks.**

On December 23, 2021 DPH announced drop in sites for vaccines, boosters and testing are available at select locations in the City over the next several weeks to support easy access to these essential services during the holiday surge.

Every person counts when it comes to boosters right now, as the primary dose vaccination series is not enough to prevent the spread of infection, severe illness, or hospitalization. Cases are rising three times faster than during the summer Delta-fueled surge. Further rapid increases are expected. The benefits of a booster dose begin to rise in just a few days and reach maximum effectiveness in a week.

“Omicron is rapidly spreading, and all evidence points to the fact that we need to do more to protect ourselves and others from infection,” said Dr. Grant Colfax, Director of Health. “Boosters are key right now for your own protection and those you love. We also want people to celebrate the holidays more safely and with an extra dose of caution, and that includes layering our defenses and taking extra caution around those who are at higher risk, including people who are elderly, immunocompromised, or unvaccinated like small children.”

To increase access, DPH has identified a number of vaccination sites open for drop-ins for booster doses across the City (see below), while appointments are also available across our health system sites. Additionally, DPH is making drop-in testing available at over 20 sites, and our sites are expanding testing to administer 20,000 tests per week to support the City’s high demand for tests right now.

As people travel and gather for the holidays, they should layer their defense against the Omicron variant through vaccines, boosters, testing, and [wearing an N95 or well fitted “double” mask](#) (cloth on top of surgical/disposable mask) to improve the seal of the mask to the face. A well-fitted mask that can be comfortably worn is most important. Limiting the size and number of indoor gatherings also reduces risk.

San Francisco detected the first case of Omicron in the United States on December 1. A recent analysis from a sample of positive COVID-19 tests shows 77% of the positive test results are likely Omicron, indicating how quickly the new variant is replacing the Delta variant in the population. While Omicron may on average cause less serious illness than Delta, transmission is so much higher that San Francisco is likely to see high rates of hospitalizations in the coming weeks.

Our current modeling shows how imperative it is to boost as many San Franciscans as possible and as quickly as possible in order to decrease the load on hospitals and to preserve capacity to serve people with COVID and other health situations not related to COVID. DPH also launched [a new data page](#) for the public to track the City’s booster efforts.

#### How to celebrate safer this holiday season:

Have everyone ages 5+ get their COVID-19 vaccine and booster if eligible.

- Anyone who develops symptoms of COVID-19 should isolate themselves and get tested as soon as possible.
- Get tested before travel, upon return, and again 3-5 days later.
- Take advantage of quick and easy home test kits available in pharmacies and stores.
- Outside gatherings are safer than indoor gatherings. Limit number and size of indoor gatherings.
- Take all precautions, including vaccinations, boosters and testing when gathering with others without masks – especially with elderly or immunocompromised individuals, and anyone who is unvaccinated or not yet boosted.
- Wear a well-fitted mask indoors and in crowded settings. Wear an N95 or double mask with surgical and cloth to improve the seal.
- Unvaccinated adults should avoid travel and gatherings outside their household.

#### What to do if you test positive for COVID:

Individuals who test positive, including if they are asymptomatic, should assume they are infected with COVID-19 and take measures to get care and isolate away from others. They should additionally notify their healthcare provider about their positive test result and stay in contact with them during their illness.



Individuals who do not have a provider or need assistance with isolation, can connect with our COVID Resource Center at (628) 217-6101.

More information about what to do if you test positive [can be found here](#).

### **State of Emergency Declaration in the Tenderloin**

On December 23, 2021, the Board of Supervisors voted to approve Mayor Breed's State of Emergency Declaration in the Tenderloin, officially allowing the City to waive certain laws to quickly address the crisis of people dying of drug overdoses on the streets of the neighborhood as part of the Mayor's Tenderloin Emergency Intervention Plan.

Similar to the City's COVID-19 Declaration of Emergency, this action will eliminate bureaucratic barriers, allowing the City to quickly implement public health solutions relating to the health and safety of the people in the Tenderloin. The overdose problem has worsened, particularly over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the recent rapidly deteriorating conditions in the Tenderloin caused by the opioid crisis put the lives of San Franciscans in serious risk.

"The Tenderloin needs change, and that requires us to do things different," said Mayor Breed. We showed during COVID that when we're able to use an Emergency Declaration to cut through the bureaucracy and barriers that get in the way of decisive action, we can get things done and make real, tangible progress. It will take that same focus and coordination in the Tenderloin to make a meaningful change to this neighborhood that has been held back for too long. I want to thank the members of the Board that voted to support this urgent response and who understand that the people who live in the Tenderloin deserve better and the people suffering on our streets deserve better."

The Emergency Declaration allows the City to expedite the implementation of emergency programs like waiving rules around contract procurement and waiving zoning and planning codes to quickly open a temporary linkage site where people with substance use issues can receive behavioral health services and get off the street. The Emergency Declaration will apply to actions taken within the [boundaries of the Tenderloin Police District](#). Additionally, the Order will be amended to waive certain laws around hiring, which allows for the expedited hiring of 200 behavioral health clinicians to fill current vacancies.

"In an emergency, people need resources immediately not months from now. An emergency declaration allows San Francisco to cut through the red tape and obtain the contracts, resources and personnel to address the crisis conditions in the Tenderloin," said Mary Ellen Carroll, Executive Director, San Francisco Department of Emergency Management. "We only have to look at our COVID response to see how an emergency declaration allowed us to quickly lease hotels, hire critical staff and establish testing and vaccine sites. Today's action will expedite the opening of a linkage center and other essential resources."

"Overdose deaths are a public health crisis in the Tenderloin neighborhood that requires an urgent and compassionate response," said Dr. Grant Colfax, Director of Health. "San Francisco has shown what we can achieve when we come together for a common public health goal. At the Department of Public Health, we have evidence-based health tools to support people with mental health and substance use disorders. These tools save lives and support our residents on their path to wellness and recovery. The Emergency Declaration provides us with a critical opportunity to greatly expand our services and connect many more people to resources, care, treatment, and safety."

"We are grateful that the City and the Mayor will now have the tools needed to address the public health emergency in the Tenderloin," said Simon Bertrang, Executive Director, Tenderloin Community Benefit District. "We saw that this kind of response - led by the Department of Emergency Management - has worked to guide San Francisco through the pandemic, and now people who live and work in the Tenderloin can expect some relief from the crisis that has taken over their sidewalks."



## DPH in the News

### Public Comment:

Michael Petrelis stated that he is disappointed that Director Colfax did not include an initiative about mailing COVID-19 tests or making them and masks available at all San Francisco government buildings.

### Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Bernal thanked Director Colfax for the report.

## **5) COVID-19 UPDATE**

Grant Colfax, MD, DPH Director of Health, presented the item.

### Public Comment:

Michael Petrelis stated that he is unhappy with the lack of discussion regarding the DPH mailing everyone a COVID-19 home test and N-95 masks.

### Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Green stated that DPH staff deserve high praise for all that they are doing, especially without the assistance of the many non-DPH staff activated last year to assist with COVID-19 activities. She asked how the DPH hospitals are managing with the current COVID-related staffing issues. She also asked if there are specific data that will trigger ceasing of elective procedures at ZSFG. Director Colfax stated that DPH staff who had been activated for COVID-related work were supposed to go back to their non-COVID work on December 31, 2021, but this has been delayed due to the current surge. He noted that the DPH team is very committed to their work. He noted that he is working with other local health care systems to protect the most vulnerable, mitigating COVID-19, and focusing on congregate settings. He noted that ZSFG has been able to maintain its staffing ratios. The state has given new guidance which enables health care workers to return to work after a positive COVID-19 test if they are asymptomatic. DPH leadership is actively discussing citywide hospital bed use with the Hospital Council. He noted that ZSFG has a contingency plan in place to decrease or stop elective procedures if necessary.

Commissioner Green asked if there is a formula in use to assist with determining the number of staff and staffed beds in local hospitals. Roland Pickens, San Francisco Health Network Director, stated that each hospital has its own method make these determinations. All local hospitals are currently maintaining state mandated ratios. There is an emergency management protocol in place if the City has issues with the number of available hospital beds. Susan Ehrlich, ZSFG CEO, stated that this time of year is usually a higher volume of patients. ZSFG has an additional challenge due to many staff being out on leave or sick leave. As the City entered the Orange level, less urgent procedures at ZSFG have been slightly reduced. Staff from the areas of reduced activity can then be used elsewhere in the hospital. ZSFG has been reduced the number of open beds to maintain its staffing ratios; this increases the hospitals diversion rates.

Commissioner Green asked if other hospitals are also reducing services and open beds. Dr. Ehrlich stated ZSFG is uniquely impacted at this time. DPH is working with other hospitals to reintroduce level-loading.

Commissioner Giraudo stated that other health systems are not doing their part for testing and asked if the DPH or Health Officer can do more to get these systems to do their part. Director Colfax stated that the DPH is reaching out to other hospital leaders, noting that the DPH is carrying a huge burden for testing and COVID-related work. Dr. Susan Philip, San Francisco Health Officer, stated that she has been in touch with other health care systems; a health order is in place that requires these systems test patients within 24 hours and that results come back within 48 hours. She noted that the DPH is currently providing about 50% of the COVID tests in San Francisco.

Commissioner Giraudo is concerned because staff at her workplace have had to use DPH testing due to lack of availability at the health care system to which she is employed.

Commissioner Chow asked for clarification on the expected length of the current surge based on models. He also asked for clarification regarding the term, "Fully vaccinated." He also asked for more information on how the DPH is working with the school system. Director Colfax stated that models show that the surge will likely be quick; he expects hospitalizations to peak later this month and may steeply decline in February. He also stated that the DPH is working to make rapid tests available for use with the most vulnerable populations. The DPH has ordered tens of thousands but the estimates of when the tests will arrive continue to change due to supply chain issues and weather. He noted that the federal and state governments also are supposed to have tests to distribute sometime soon. Regarding work with schools, Director Colfax noted that the DPH has continued providing guidance to public and private schools in addition to putting out statements regarding the importance of testing and masking. Regarding the definition of "fully vaccinated," this shifting to receiving a primary series of vaccinations and a booster.

Commissioner Guillermo asked the impact of lack of home testing data in the COVID testing data, including the impact of the city's ability to respond to the current surge. She also asked if contact tracing continues during this surge. Director Colfax stated that there is no requirement to capture home testing data. Moving forward, focusing on the number of hospitalizations will likely be a sensible metric to focus on. He added that the DPH will continue to rely on conventional testing data which gives a picture of the current situation. Dr. Philip stated that it is currently not possible to conduct contact tracing on all cases, due to the number of cases and available staff. Everyone who gets a positive test through a medical facility gets a message to call the support center for assistance regarding isolation and quarantine safety.

Commissioner Guillermo asked about DPH messaging regarding the overall importance of testing. Director Colfax stated that current recommendations focus on testing after a known exposure, experiencing symptoms, after travel, and when expecting to be around vulnerable people.

Commissioner Bernal acknowledged the strain on the DPH staff as we enter the third year of the pandemic.

**6) GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

Michael Petrelis stated that he is disappointed that the issue of making COVID tests and N-95 masks more widely available is not on the agenda and has not been discussed. He noted that there is no current shortage of masks so those could be mailed and made available in neighborhoods most impacted.

**7) RESOLUTION MAKING FINDINGS TO ALLOW TELECONFERENCED MEETINGS UNDER CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54953(e)**

Action Taken: The Health Commission unanimously approved the resolution. (See Attachment B)

**8) SAN FRANCISCO OPTION ESCHEATMENT PROPOSAL**

Stella Cao, DPH Director of Managed Care, presented the item.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Green noted the importance of employees understanding their options, adding that the Office of Labor Standards Enforcement is responsible for enforcing this portion of the process. She asked for information regarding situations in which an employee is deceased. Ms. Cao stated that once the Health Commission approves this policy change, DPH staff will reach out the Office of Labor Standards Enforcement to better understand their procedures. Sumi Sousa, San Francisco Health Plan, stated that Transunion is used to

assist the Health Plan in finding people when there is no contact information available. She also stated that people in service industry positions may churn through jobs and forget they have funds available.

Commissioner Green asked if the funds could be used for DPH related services. Jen Louie, DPH CFO, stated that the funds go into the City General Fund. Greg Wagner, DPH COO, stated that the General Fund is the largest funder of the DPH; the determination of how these funds will be used is a technical matter. He noted that the DPH continues to work closely with the Mayor's and Controller's Offices on these types of matters.

Action Taken: The Health Commission unanimously approved the item.

**9) RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THAT FUNDS RECLAIMED THROUGH THE SAN FRANCISCO CITY OPTION ESCHEATMENT PROCESS BE USED FOR HEALTH CARE SERVICES IN SAN FRANCISCO**

This item was postponed.

**10) 2016 PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY BOND QUARTERLY UPDATE**

Mark Primeau, DPH Capital Oversight Adviser and Joe Chin, Program Manager, Department of Public Works, presented the item.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Chow asked how the projects reflect the proposed budget. Mr. Primeau stated that no interest has yet been posted to these funds, so the final budget amount is not yet known. He also noted that the team is working closely with the SFGH Foundation to meet budget gaps. The original bond amount was not an amount needed to complete all the required work on these projects.

Commissioner Chow requested that the next presentation include a comparison of the proposed and actual budget.

**11) FINANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Commissioner Chung, Chair, stated that the committee reviewed all the items on the Consent Calendar and recommended that the full Health Commission approve the items.

**12) CONSENT CALENDAR**

Action Taken: The Health Commission unanimously approved the following items:

- JANUARY 2022 CONTRACTS REPORT
- REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A NEW CONTRACT WITH 314E CORPORATION (314E), IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,000,000, TO PROVIDE AS-NEEDED SPECIALIZED IT SUPPORT SERVICES FOR MENTAL HEALTH SAN FRANCISCO (MHSF). THIS REQUEST HAS AN INITIAL TERM OF FEBRUARY 1, 2022 THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2025 (3 YEARS). THE CONTRACT HAS THE OPTION TO EXTEND THE INITIAL TERM FOR A MAXIMUM OF 6 YEARS, OR 72 ADDITIONAL MONTHS THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2031.
- REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A NEW CONTRACT WITH DELOITTE CONSULTING LLP (DELOITTE), IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,000,000, TO PROVIDE AS-NEEDED SPECIALIZED IT SUPPORT SERVICES FOR MENTAL HEALTH SAN FRANCISCO (MHSF). THIS REQUEST HAS AN INITIAL TERM OF FEBRUARY 1, 2022 THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2025 (3 YEARS). THE CONTRACT HAS THE OPTION TO EXTEND THE INITIAL TERM FOR A MAXIMUM OF 6 YEARS, OR 72 ADDITIONAL MONTHS THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2031.
- REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A NEW CONTRACT WITH KPMG LLP (KPMG), IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,000,000, TO PROVIDE AS-NEEDED SPECIALIZED IT SUPPORT SERVICES FOR MENTAL HEALTH SAN FRANCISCO (MHSF). THIS REQUEST HAS AN INITIAL TERM OF FEBRUARY 1, 2022 THROUGH

**13) OTHER BUSINESS:**

This item was not discussed.

**14) JOINT CONFERENCE COMMITTEE AND OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Commissioner Chow, ZSFG JCC Chair, stated that at its December 28, 2021 meeting, the committee reviewed the following reports: Regulatory Affairs Report, CEO Report, Human Resources Report, and Medical Staff Report. As part of the Medical Staff Report, the committee approved the Medicine Rules and Regulations and Emergency Department Standardized Procedures. The committee also discussed a presentation on the "Care Experience Strategy." Staff presenting noted that a new vendor is being used for patient and staff satisfaction surveys. Patient surveys are now done mostly in digital format at the end of their inpatient stay or outpatient services. In closed session, the Committee approved the Credentials Report and PIPS Minutes report.

**15) ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:22pm.

**Health Commission  
City and County of San Francisco  
Resolution 22-01**

**ADDRESSING HEALTH DISPARITIES OF THE LOCAL AMERICAN INDIAN COMMUNITIES**

WHEREAS, The Health Commission acknowledges the disproportionate health disparities faced by the American Indian/Alaska Native community such as shorter life expectancy and higher rates of diabetes; heart disease; AIDS; premature death; domestic violence and other violence exposure; stress-related illness, such as high blood pressure, depression, homelessness and suicide; as well as disproportionate morbidity and mortality due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, The Health Commission acknowledges that American Indians/Alaska Natives may face one or more systemic barriers, including unstable or a lack of housing, food insecurity, and limited access to culturally sensitive healthcare services; and

WHEREAS, The Health Commission acknowledges that existing American Indian/Alaska Native health data contains significant data gaps, characterized by both a lack of data collection on American Indian and Alaska Native race and ethnicity categories, and underreporting on American Indian/Alaska Native health indicators, rendering data insufficient to fully identify the disproportionate health disparities faced by the American Indian/Alaska Native community; and

WHEREAS, The Health Commission acknowledges the resources directed to American Indian/Alaska Native organizations have not been proportional to the severity of the health disparities faced by the American Indian/Alaska Native community; and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Human Rights Commission published a report in 2007, “Discrimination by Omission: Issues of Concern for Native Americans in San Francisco,” detailing the ways in which American Indian communities experience systemic erasure and exclusion in San Francisco, and identifying numerous recommendations for improved outcomes, and process which was guided by members of the local American Indian/Alaska Native community and tribes.

NOW BE IT RESOLVED, The Health Commission recommends the San Francisco Department of Public Health establish meaningful and ongoing partnerships with local American Indian/Alaska Native organizations, community leaders, and community/tribal members, to identify and understand their public health needs and develop a set of public health priorities; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, The Health Commission recommends the San Francisco Department of Public Health include accurate and disaggregated American Indian/Alaska Native health data and health impacts in public reporting where possible; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, The Health Commission directs the San Francisco Department of Public Health to add a footnote to any presentation or report that includes race and/or ethnicity data presented to the Health Commission, explaining a lack of data for a specific community to ensure that no community experiences being invisible due to its size or small data set; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, The Health Commission directs the San Francisco Department of Public Health to work with local American Indian/Alaska Native organizations and community/tribal members to identify recommendations to address these health disparities, including presenting an update to the Health Commission within six months on this process, and a summary report within one year.

I hereby certify that the San Francisco Health Commission at its January 4, 2022 meeting adopt the foregoing resolution.

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Mark Morewitz, MSW  
Health Commission Executive Secretary

**Health Commission  
Resolution 22-02**

**RESOLUTION MAKING FINDINGS TO ALLOW TELECONFERENCED MEETINGS UNDER CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT  
CODE SECTION 54953(e)**

WHEREAS, California Government Code Section 54953(e) empowers local policy bodies to convene by teleconferencing technology during a proclaimed state of emergency under the State Emergency Services Act so long as certain conditions are met; and

WHEREAS, In March, 2020, the Governor of the State of California proclaimed a state of emergency in California in connection with the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (“COVID-19”) pandemic, and that state of emergency remains in effect; and

WHEREAS, On February 25, 2020, the Mayor of the City and County of San Francisco (the “City”) declared a local emergency, and on March 6, 2020 the City’s Health Officer declared a local health emergency, and both those declarations also remain in effect; and

WHEREAS, On March 11 and March 23, 2020, the Mayor issued emergency orders suspending select provisions of local law, including sections of the City Charter, that restrict teleconferencing by members of policy bodies; those orders remain in effect, so City law currently allows policy bodies to meet remotely if they comply with restrictions in State law regarding teleconference meetings; and

WHEREAS, On September 16, 2021, the Governor signed AB 361, a bill that amends the Brown Act to allow local policy bodies to continue to meet by teleconferencing during a state of emergency without complying with restrictions in State law that would otherwise apply, provided that the policy bodies make certain findings at least once every 30 days; and

WHEREAS, While federal, State, and local health officials emphasize the critical importance of vaccination and consistent mask-wearing to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the City’s Health Officer has issued at least one order (Health Officer Order No. C19-07y, available online at [www.sfdph.org/healthorders](http://www.sfdph.org/healthorders)) and one directive (Health Officer Directive No. 2020-33i, available online at [www.sfdph.org/directives](http://www.sfdph.org/directives)) that continue to recommend measures to promote physical distancing and other social distancing measures, such as masking, in certain contexts; and

WHEREAS, The California Department of Industrial Relations Division of Occupational Safety and Health (“Cal/OSHA”) has promulgated Section 3205 of Title 8 of the California Code of Regulations, which requires most employers in California, including in the City, to train and instruct employees about measures that can decrease the spread of COVID-19, including physical distancing and other social distancing measures; and

WHEREAS, Without limiting any requirements under applicable federal, state, or local pandemic-related rules, orders, or directives, the City’s Department of Public Health, in coordination with the City’s Health Officer, has advised that for group gatherings indoors, such as meetings of boards and commissions, people can increase safety and greatly reduce risks to the health and safety of attendees from COVID-19 by maximizing ventilation, wearing well-fitting masks (as required by Health Officer Order No. C19-07), using physical distancing where the vaccination status of attendees is not known, and considering holding the meeting remotely if feasible, especially for long meetings, with any attendees with unknown vaccination status and where ventilation may not be optimal; and



WHEREAS, On July 31, 2020, the Mayor issued an emergency order that, with limited exceptions, prohibited policy bodies other than the Board of Supervisors and its committees from meeting in person under any circumstances, so as to ensure the safety of policy body members, City staff, and the public; and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Health Commission has met remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic and can continue to do so in a manner that allows public participation and transparency while minimizing health risks to members, staff, and the public that would be present with in-person meetings while this emergency continues; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That San Francisco Health Commission finds as follows:

1. As described above, the State of California and the City remain in a state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic. At this meeting, the San Francisco Health Commission has considered the circumstances of the state of emergency.
2. As described above, State and City officials continue to recommend measures to promote physical distancing and other social distancing measures, in some settings.
3. As described above, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, conducting meetings of this body and its committees, including the Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital and Laguna Honda Hospital Joint Conference Committees, in person would present imminent risks to the safety of attendees, and the state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of members to meet safely in person; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That for at least the next 30 days meetings of the San Francisco Health Commission and its committees, including the Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital and Laguna Honda Hospital Joint Conference Committees, will continue to occur exclusively by teleconferencing technology (and not by any in-person meetings or any other meetings with public access to the places where any policy body member is present for the meeting). Such meetings of the San Francisco Health Commission that occur by teleconferencing technology will provide an opportunity for members of the public to address this body and its committees, including the Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital and Laguna Honda Hospital Joint Conference Committees, and will otherwise occur in a manner that protects the statutory and constitutional rights of parties and the members of the public attending the meeting via teleconferencing; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Executive Secretary of the San Francisco Health Commission is directed to place a resolution substantially similar to this resolution on the agenda of a future meeting of the San Francisco Health Commission within the next 30 days. If the San Francisco Health Commission does not meet within the next 30 days, the Executive Secretary is directed to place a such resolution on the agenda of the next meeting of San Francisco Health Commission.

I hereby certify that the San Francisco Health Commission at its December 7, 2021 meeting adopt the foregoing resolution.

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Mark Morewitz, MSW  
Health Commission Executive Secretary

